

## The Washington Times

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1916.

## AS TO THE BETTORS

You bet your money, and take the country's choice.

One way to hedge effectively is to bet on the man you are voting against. Then you win if you lose; winning the election for your choice loses your money, and vice versa. But it requires a strong mentality to keep one's judgment and sympathies separate. People who insist that they bet in cold blood, for the purpose of winning, mostly lose because they don't do anything of the sort. The procedure of voting one way and betting the other has the advantage of providing one with a hedge against the possibility of a psychological interest, if one cares for a little introspection.

## A LONG TIME TO STAY AWAKE

The election of 1884 was the most recent in which results were a long time being made practically certain. It is generally reasonably safe for the interested citizen to avow that he'll not go to sleep till he knows who is elected. But not always; and this year may easily enough be one of those years when the wakeful period will be prolonged.

New York soldiers on the Mexican border will in most cases vote, and send their ballots home to be counted. Now it develops that in the case of New York, these ballots will not be counted until December 19. There are just about 10,000 New York soldiers on the border, and therefore if the election is very close the votes of the soldiers might determine the result. It is commonly reported that the tendency among the State military organizations that have gone to the border, has been toward Wilson.

Other States that have a good chance to be close, are in very similar posture as to their voting soldiers. It will be altogether unfortunate if by any chance this vote should require to be canvassed before the general result can be known. Yet the 1884 election would have had to await that canvass, if a like situation had existed at that time. It might happen this year.

Still more unfortunate would be the possibility, which is gravely suggested, that if the soldiers' votes prove decisive of the result, there will be a contest in the courts. The New York troops are entitled to vote, under their State law, if they are serving "in time of war." Is the country at war in Mexico?

The national Administration insists that it isn't. If the soldier vote should be necessary to turn New York to Wilson, and if Wilson should require New York to win, we should then see the edifying performance of Democratic legal talent arguing in court that the country really is at war, and that, being at war, these soldiers are entitled to vote.

Politics makes strange fellowships—in and out of bed.

## GOOD AMERICAN WEATHER

Some folks, reading the forecast of generally fair and usable weather throughout most of the country, will opine that it's "good Republican weather"; others, that it's of the Democratic sort. But as a matter of fact there's always a difference of opinion what sort of weather serves a particular partisan purpose. Three decades ago it was common to assume that rainy weather over New York State was a Democratic advantage, because the people in the city would manage to get to their convenient polling places and roll up their usual Democratic majority, while the countrymen would toast their shins in shelter and fail to turn up the wanted Republican majority up-State. The times changed somewhat, and a good many people decided that rainy weather in the country was good for the Republicans, because the farmer couldn't work out of doors in the rain, and was more willing to take the time to go to vote.

Probably, in a season like this, when the supply of labor is short everywhere and farmers are anxious to employ every hour of good working daylight to finish off fall work, the tendency to neglect voting in order to remain in the fields will be accentuated considerably. On the other hand there is always a considerable vote that "gets out" in fair weather; the vote of the halt, the lame and the aged. So the thing pretty generally evens up.

By common consent, the election seems likely to be decided by the States of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. They are all cosmopolitan States; every one of them has an important city population and also a big farming community. The farmers are reputed to be the most dangerous element, from the Republican

point of view; so it would seem that the sort of weather that encourages the biggest farmer vote might be Democratic weather. But that is the superficial view. Even if there are considerable Democratic gains in the farming areas, it is pretty certain that the majority of farmers will still, even though reduced, be for the Republican ticket. Then, it would be presumed, the larger the farmer vote the more potent this majority will be. It is a complex proposition on which to figure; but at least it will be agreed that an election day so meteorologically perfect as this one should cheer folks with the feeling that the country isn't going to the bowwows, no matter who wins.

## WILL THE POLES TAKE THE BAIT ONCE MORE?

The two Kaisers of central Europe are holding out to the Poles the same bait that Napoleon offered them. Poland was wrenched asunder before Napoleon rose to power in Europe. Austria, Prussia, and Russia had taken their slices, and Poland had well-nigh ceased to exist, nationally, before the Corsican set out on his ill-fated march to Moscow.

Whatever may be said of the incapacity of the Poles for government, there is no division of opinion as to their ability as soldiers. They seldom made their military genius very effective, because of the political divisions that invariably dissipated the results. Even the magnificent John Sobieski, after he had saved middle Europe from the Turks before Vienna, was not permitted to rule in peace and satisfaction the country that idolized him because of the glory he had won for it. He lived a dozen years after his great victory, but in that time, because of the everlasting wrangling among the grandees, was repeatedly on the verge of abdication in disgust, and he solemnly warned his countrymen that unless they reformed themselves they would lose their country. It was a prophetic warning; for the event proved its absolute correctness.

There were three partitions of Poland before the appearance of Napoleon. In 1772 the three conspirator powers lopped off about 40 per cent of the Polish national area and distributed it among themselves. Then twenty years later they dipped in again, and soon after this they finished the business by the partition of 1795, which was simply the announcement that there "wasn't goin' to be no core."

The Poles were irreconcilable; and when France rose to power after the revolution, as the pillar of fire and cloud leading European democracy, the Poles hoped it would liberate them. Napoleon got around to that, when he needed Polish soldiers for the Russian campaign. He created the Duchy of Warsaw, with the same grandiloquence that has marked the present resuscitation, in war's midst, of the Kingdom of Poland. The Poles of that day saw a rainbow promise of ultimate re-establishment of their nationality, and thousands of them joined the French armies in the march into Russia. Napoleon probably would have tried sincerely enough to do something for the Poles, if he had had the chance; for it was decidedly to his interest to create a nation thoroughly friendly to himself, between Russia and Prussia. But he never possessed, after Moscow, the power to carry out whatever plans he may have had, and Poland realized nothing from his promises.

Creation of a new Polish kingdom by the central powers, just at this time, looks like a bid for Polish support, recruits, alliance, in the war against the entente. Perhaps the Poles will take the bait; it must be doubted. If there were less German and more Austrian influence back of this newest move, the appeal would be stronger; for Austria has used sense and humanity in managing her Poles; Prussia has been even more rigorous and efficient than Russia in the effort to suppress them. Poland will not be re-established now; most likely it will never be re-established.

## THE STAYING POWERS

Taking the war news from all fronts during the last few weeks, it must be concluded that the entente allies are demonstrating that superior staying powers are on their side. The war is coming into that stage where the side with the greater numbers from which to draw is going to show more and more its advantage.

The Italians have been pressing forward toward Trieste, with a calm determination that indicates a very real superiority of force in that sector. They needed not only splendid military management but greatly superior numbers in order to gain the more advantageous positions they now occupy. At the beginning of the war the Austrians held the heights, the Italians were compelled to attack from the lowlands; and it was a warfare on most unequal terms, paralleled on no other battle front. Today the Italians have gained a foothold in the mountains, and conditions are more nearly equal. As the campaign gains ground, the Italians will at length, if they are successful, gain the absolute ad-

vantage in the character of terrain occupied.

Roumania has pulled itself together, and with Russian assistance and the direction of French officers, is putting up a stiff fight, even gaining some real advantages in both the Dobruja and Transylvania. On the Somme the French and British doggedly blast their slow way forward, almost every day adding to the prospect that on this, the most important front of all, they will at length achieve their purpose of crunching through the great German line. The least effective of the allied armies seems lately to be that of Russia. It has gained little since the first spectacular smash of the summer offensive. Berlin and Sofia even emit suggestions that Teuton strategy contemplates another grand attack on the long Russian line, which is declared to be incapable of sustaining itself against such a move.

Probably, despite Russia's inferior industrial force, the Germans will not be able to spare men from other fronts to make such a campaign successful. Russia is a sponge that may be stabbed and rent, but that has no vital. Moscow has been taken more than once by invaders; but both Napoleon and Charles XII lost their armies as the penalty for gaining the ancient capital of Russia.

The war will go on all winter, with all the force that can be brought to bear. Activity doubtless will be greatest in those regions where weather is least forbidding; but the western allies do not intend so far to slacken their offensive as to make it safe for the central nations greatly to weaken their lines. The process of attrition is at work, now; and its effects will be increasingly apparent from month to month.

## WHY NOT LET US VOTE BY MAIL?

Today is the quadrennial occasion for Washington to chafe under the realization of its voteless status. Many persons who have no expectation of the franchise for District citizens in the near future, do seriously advocate an arrangement by which voters here can cast their ballots by mail.

A visitor from Norfolk, Va., reminds Capital residents that his State already has granted the privilege of voting by mail. Many voters have taken advantage of it. Practically no abuses have been reported, though there has been difficulty because election and registration officers complained of the heavy work placed upon them.

This trouble arose because of the many safeguards placed around the mail ballot plan. Other States may profit by a study of the Virginia law, and it is possible that it may be simplified without removing any necessary precautions.

It is only a matter of time until States must take up the question of mail balloting. Formerly the traveling salesman and the actor typified the movable portion of our population. Modern life seems to require a larger and larger portion of the population to move about, and these citizens should not be deprived of the ballot.

As for Washington, Government employees from members of the Cabinet down to clerks and messengers, would welcome an opportunity to mail their votes. That is not the ideal arrangement, if they are to continue to live in the District, but it would be better than being disfranchised because of a Washington residence.

## THE SILENT WOMEN'S VOTE

From Illinois comes the avowal that the Sucker State will align according as the women's votes swing it; and beyond this, that the ladies constitute the silent vote. This is not an excerpt from the humorous department, either; it is a plain statement of fact as the politicians out there are finding the fact. The great body of married women are expected to vote as their husbands do; but there is a vast class of business and professional women who have no such attachment by which their preferences may be somewhat guided, and nobody has been able to determine how this vote will go. The basis for fear that the Republicans may lose a State ordinarily overwhelmingly Republican, is that this independent women vote may be caught by the Democratic cry that Wilson kept the country out of war.

Anyhow, the fact that the women are the silent voters, keeping their own counsel, and voting as they please, seems to establish the fact that they have been libeled by the ancient tradition that a woman can't keep a secret or her own counsel. The man that can talk politics all through a campaign and not announce how he is going to vote is a rare avis. If the ladies have discovered how to do that they are going to add immensely to the uncertainty about elections.

## Lost Marriage License

In Fire, Gets Another

A marriage license to wed Clara O. Walker was thrown into a fire with other papers by William E. Farrell, 311 Fourth street southeast, formerly of the Marine Corps.

This explanation was made yesterday by Farrell, who applied to License Clerk Kroll for a duplicate of the certificate he purchased last Friday.

Candid German critics, after the Kaiser has succeeded in getting peace from the allies, and the thing is all over, will themselves admit, no doubt, that the allied powers, and the first German drive was checked.

## Don Marquis' Column

## Theological.

A god I knew in Timbuctoo—  
A deity I trusted—  
Reminded me one day: "My boy,  
If I should wake, you're busted!"

"For you only exist in a thought of mine,  
For all your fret and trouble—  
And I could make you twine if I would  
By simply seeing double!"

"For there is no matter anywhere—  
You hate that thought? No matter—  
And the things that you think are solid  
Are change of mood would shatter!"

"Old deity," I said, "suppose  
You've got the matter twisted \* \* \*  
Suppose you're only a dream of mine,  
And elsewhere never existed?"

"Suppose, if I refused to bow,  
My faith and my devotion,  
You'd blow away \* \* \* like a little  
thought."

In a roaring gale of emotion!"

But each of us pondered the other's words.

For I was afraid that I'd blow up  
If he should quit his thinking.  
And he was afraid that he'd blow up  
If I should quit my drinking.

At last he said in a solemn voice:  
"Thought ruins one's digestion!  
Wise men and gods will always avoid  
A theological question!"

Speed of Wireless to Be Quadrupled.

Headline.

An ordinary club-footed thought finds trouble keeping up with it now.

Madison Square Garden has been getting quite some crowds this autumn. Mary, the other great drawing card of the Garden family, is looking forward to a good season, too.

Mr. Wilson kept us out of war, his campaign committee say.  
Mr. Wilson is just like Lincoln, his campaign committee say.  
What is so unblushing as a campaign committee?

Says a story telling of the subway explosion: "The conspirators deny that they intended to take a human life."  
Setting off fifty sticks of dynamite in a subway station is a merry prank, according to their point of view, and they would have felt deep and sincere regret if anyone had been killed \* \* \* no doubt to understand how such a thing could kill anyone. And if anyone is killed by a jolly little feat of this sort, it is obviously the fault of the person killed.

Hard fighting still continues Somewhere in France.

To the "Peace With Honor" School.  
"He hath brought us peace with honor." Be it so.

As for the honor. Upright men acclaim Him in these words. Honor is but a name.

To me, he face I cannot hope to know. But this I know: Such peace as his will go.

Down the ages breeding wars. A stalwart fame.

Is as a mighty army, but the blame Of craven weakness is a broken bow.

Let Honor be, but among Honor's men These things shall work a mighty usury.

Yea, legions yet unborn shall burn on the rack For brave words spoken and broken by a pen.

In our far day—broken as utterly As his, the King Wolf of the Prussian pack.

—Earl Simonson.

And How Long Would It Take a Hen to Lay Them End to End?

Sir: Now that your friend Alderman Pretzel has found 450,000,000,000,000 (pretzel 'em) in gold stored in Chicago, I want to know if all those eggs were fried how many square miles of ham would it take to make up the portion.

And if they were all jolted into one omelet and the said omelet were served into bas-relief portraits of Woodrow Wilson, Bryan and Jimmah Lewis.

Would it not cover the State of Illinois? If not, why not? Anyhow, it should be done; even if it only blotted out Chicago, that would be something worth while.

—H. W.

French Without a Struggle.

In Zoologic verse at times It's hard to get good beastly rhymes: But you can remember one now and then. By using French ones about a cat.

Use the natural rhyme, "Te chat." And of all animals I've seen I hold Man's best friend is "le chien."

Darwinian theories and rules were scorching questions in the Schools.

Because (if state without a twinge) Our ancestor was named "le Singe."

—MARK RUSSELL.

Munitions and "Prolonging the War."

German and pro-German papers are still charging that the sale of munitions to the entente allies by American manufacturers is "prolonging the war."

It is a point of view we have never been able to grasp.

To seem that the possession of these munitions has been of considerable value to the entente allies in a military way, and has thus directly contributed to shortening the war.

Indeed, the task of the allies, if they had not been able to hold the seas, stop the vast bulk of German commerce, and draw supplies from neutral nations themselves, would have been much longer and more arduous one. As it is, their ability to reach the world's markets and to exclude the Germans from the same, through England's superiority at sea, appears to be a fixed factor of the struggle of the world.

—DON MARQUIS.

## Don Marquis' Bernhardt Returns to Capital: Shakespeare at Belasco Theater

## "DIVINE SARAH" HOLDS HOUSE ENTHALLED

## Audience at National Welcomes Indomitable French Actress in "Cleopatra."

The tribute Washington paid last night to Sarah Bernhardt, on the beginning of her week's engagement at the National Theater, and probably her last forer in this country, was the most intense, interested, and responsive audience which has been housed in this city, lo, these many years.

The applause which greeted her upon her first appearance as "Cleopatra," in "The Death of Cleopatra," the appreciation with which her performance of Marc Bertram, a dying French soldier, in "From the Theater to the Field of Honor," was received; and the demonstration at her last appearance as Violante in "Le Vite-rail," all was given with a spontaneity which might well be envied.

The plays were given in French, and all, although short, allow for the fullest display of the talents of the great actress.

At End of Career.

In "The Death of Cleopatra" the curtain rises on the Queen as she lies on her couch surrounded by her slaves.

She is at the end of her career. Fearful capture from Octavius, who is a rival of her death, but has sent messengers to Antony reassuring him of her safety.

A jealous actor has caused the messengers to be killed in the hope that Antony will never return. A messenger from Antony, however, mortally wounded, creeps in and tells the Queen of the treachery; frames that Antony has been defeated by Octavius, and counsels that she fly.

Pretending to accept the love of the traitor, she allows him to draw near her couch, only to stab him in the shoulder as he kneels.

Close upon his death comes the news that Marc, Antony's approaching. He comes, begs Cleopatra to fly with him, but she will not leave Egypt, even for him. He sends his army, learns that Octavius is on his way to her, and prepares for him. Taking the asp from his basket of leaves, she holds it for a moment in her hand, and then she dies.

An instant later Octavius enters, only to have her salute him, dying. This is the end of the play, as given by Henri Cain and Maurice Bernhardt.

In the next play in which Madame Bernhardt appeared she took the role of a young soldier of France, dying from his wounds, in a devastated wood. His leg is broken, and there is a wound in his chest. He is a Frenchman, and when he comes to the greatest tragedy in his own life, his death, he dies asking forgiveness for his enemies, and praising France to his last breath.

Last Play.

The last play shows Violante, waiting patiently for her husband who has gone to the holy wars. In order to test her love for him he returns in darkness, clothed in a black owl, and will not let her approach.

He is not his arm cut off, and his body contaminated by caring for lepers, he claims. But Violante will not desert him, begs that he come to her and takes him in her arms, overjoyed to find that he is whole. Rene Fauchais is the author.

"Peace at Home," was given after the first play.

Included in the supporting company, which is adequate, are M. Angelo, who played opposite Madame Bernhardt, and Margaret Mower, who appears as the "Spirit of Play," before each act to explain in English the forthcoming events.

F. Y.

## GAYETY

The "Twentieth Century Maids," with James Barton, the featured comedian, are presenting a two-act burlesque at the Gayety this week. It is called "The Aviator," and fairly teems with witty dialogue, catchy songs, and clever dancing.

Barton has his familiar role of a hobo and displays a number of new gag lines. John Barry is Barton's foil, and the pair won many laughs.

Drena Mack is a captivating singer, while Arline Donaire is one of the most graceful dancers seen at the Gayety this season. Other in the cast whose work deserves special mention are Marie Donia, James Howell, and Walter Morrison.

A pantomime in four scenes based on the underworld of Paris is one of the features of the show. Jules LaBarbe and Arline Donaire play the principal parts, and their dance, La Valse Rouge (The Red Waltz) made a hit.

The chorus is right up to the minute in looks and ability, and appeared to advantage in the ensembles. Elaborate costumes, particularly in the model scene, and unique scenic effects add to the success of the show.

This evening there will be a mid-night performance, beginning immediately after the regular evening performance.

## GARDEN.

Heretofore a new era in motion pictures—the presentation of a star at the head of her own company—Lewis Selznick introduces Clara Kimball Young in a most carefully produced photoplay made from Robert W. Chambers' novel, "The Common Law," at the Garden Theater this week.

The character of the company surrounding Miss Young, and the production as a whole are to be taken as a model for future efforts in this direction those who have the best interests of the motion picture at heart will wish it to succeed.

In building a photoplay from "The Common Law" the scenario writer has found himself required to translate a plain discourse novel into an action story. The result is the visualization of the story in a wealth of appropriate action, and the production of an exceptional company of actresses and actors who make the book characters thoroughly alive.

Miss Young makes use of every opportunity given her in the part of Valerie West, and is thoroughly satisfactory. Conway Tearle is an admirable Louis. Paul Capellani makes the unpleasant part of Querida thoroughly human, and Lillian Cook and the remainder of the large cast are entirely adequate.

A special exhibition will be given tonight at the conclusion of the regular show to permit the receipt of late season returns.

Amusements.

National—Sarah Bernhardt, 8:15 p. m. Belasco—"The Merry Wives of Windsor," 8:15 p. m.

Belasco—Vaudeville, 7:15, 7:45 and 10:15 p. m. Polka—"Broadway After Dark," 7:15 and 10:15 p. m.

Polka—Burlesque, 7:15, 8 and 10:15 p. m. Lyceum—Burlesque, 7:15, 8 and 10:15 p. m. Cosmos—Vaudeville, 7:15 to 11 p. m. Columbia—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:20 p. m.

Moore's Garden—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m. Moore's Strand—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.

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## KEITH'S.

Judging from the applause for Miss Nora Bayes at Keith's last night, she could easily outdo either Mr. Wilson or Mr. Hughes at the polls if she were a candidate for the position they seek today. All three were on the stage, either in picture or person, and the popular singing comedienne was unanimously elected the hero of the occasion.

Miss Bayes, more vivacious than ever following her recent rent, brought four new songs by Keith, and each was a distinct achievement. More than mere songs, they were, or at least Miss Bayes seems to get more music out of them than we ever can at the old upright in the back parlor. For a certain call she imitates cats, dogs, and things.

Charles Kellogg held his audiences for twenty minutes of exposure of the wonders of the woodland and forest. Mr. Kellogg can do more with two pieces of wood and a highly developed vocal system than most of his hearers turned out to be with two pieces of humanity. Right on the stage he communes with birds, flowers, and babes. Miss Valeria's Spanish dances are the best that have been brought to Keith's. Frank Wood and Buncie Wyde amused with their bright sketch in old and new songs at the piano. "That's All Right."

"The Belle of Brimfield," a rural satire, in which Fred Whitfield and Marie Louche present a rustic blend of mirth and dance in true suburban style, was well received. They are headed by a musical comedy, "Mabel Adams and Marion Murray," and well as in "Cotton Stockings," and Martin Brennan and Edith Powell scored in old and new songs at the piano. The Cycling Brunettes opened the bill with feats in "Defying Gravity."

## STRAND.

Charles Minnigerode Maigne, formerly a member of the staff of The Strand, is the author of a number of amusing stories and articles on military life. In the author of "The Brand of Cowardice," in which Lionel Barrymore, the Gracie Van der Meer, and the chief features of the photoplay program at the Strand Theater this week.

The play is a familiar military life, because of his long service as an officer of the army. Mr. Maigne has turned out a number of military stories and articles on military life, and the chief features of the photoplay program at the Strand Theater this week.

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